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REPORT  
OF THE  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

For the Two Years Ending  
DECEMBER 31, 1906.

# REPORT.

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TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO.

Adjutant General's Office.

Santa Fe, N. M., December 21, 1906.

The Governor of New Mexico, Santa Fe, N. M.

Sir:—In compliance with your request for a report of the transactions of this office for the years of 1905 and 1906, with such recommendations as may appear necessary and of interest to the members of the coming legislature, I have the honor to submit the following summary of my report for the year of 1905 and 1906, with such recommendations as may appear necessary and of interest to the members of the coming legislature, I have the honor to submit the following summary of my report for the year of 1905, which has already been submitted to you, and a brief account of the operations of this department for the current year. A large part of six or eight months, during the year of 1905, was spent in checking up the stores on hand and scattered throughout the Territory. It was necessary to appoint boards of survey at every point at which an organization was stationed to go over these stores and render their report, which it was necessary to submit to the War Department. As the work of such boards was thorough, a great deal of time was used before an idea could be formed as to what stores were on hand.

The War Department requires an annual report from the Governor, which is prepared by the Adjutant General and which is due in Washington December 31st of each year. The report for the year of 1904, had not been prepared by my predecessor, and it was not until August of 1905, that this report was forwarded and approved. All of the work of its preparation naturally fell upon me, and without any assistance, it was necessary for me to make up this report, from the reports of boards of survey, personally as well as attend to every detail of the office.

During this year I succeeded in securing an issue of khaki clothing for our National Guard, and they are therefore furnished with

both the blue woolen clothing and khaki. A shortage of overcoats still exists, but this will be rectified as early as possible.

The Guard is very well equipped with camp equipage, including both conical tents for the men, wall and half shelter tents for both men and officers. Ponchos, blankets, field ranges for cooking, and a sufficient supply of medical stores for an ordinary emergency.

During the year a hospital ambulance was also purchased, which is on hand and which would be of great value during encampments.

A sufficient number of Laidley revolving targets is on hand to issue to companies, but for the want of suitable rifle ranges, all companies have not been furnished with them. The firing regulations requiring companies to fire at the extreme range of 1,000 yards, make it a very difficult matter to find suitable ranges, within a reasonable distance of all places at which companies are stationed.

Target practice in our Guard is necessary, as the War Department requires a certain amount of it each year. Every effort is being made on my part to encourage this work. A great deal of target practice is being carried on throughout all of the states, almost as much work in this being carried on, as in regular drills.

During the month of April the National Guard was inspected by Captain W. S. Valentine, 5th U. S. Cavalry. Captain Valentine advised me that he considered the general condition of the Guard in much better shape than the previous year; he having also made the inspection in 1904. A few articles of equipment were short in some companies, but as a whole the entire force was in a very good condition.

These inspections, as you probably understand, are conducted once each year, in order that the War Department may determine whether or not each state or territory is entitled to the benefits of the Militia Act of 1903, which Act grants a certain amount of funds to each state or territory, to be used in the purchase of uniforms, arms and equipment, and each state and territory is supposed to keep their National Guard fully uniformed, armed and equipped for active service in the field at all times, in order to secure the benefit of this appropriation; otherwise it would be necessary for the state or territory to purchase such articles out of state funds. Every effort is made to keep our force fully uniformed, armed and equipped and thus secure the benefit of this appropriation. There were no regular encampments during the year on account of lack of funds, but three companies were in camp near their home stations at their own expense. Under the provisions of the Militia Act of 1903, above referred to, after it has been shown by inspec-

tions, that the National Guard is fully uniformed, armed and equipped, any balance of funds which may remain to the credit of a state or territory, may be used for paying expenses of encampments. I found that a great many articles of equipment were needed to enable our Guard to pass a creditable inspection, and after their purchase, all idea of a regular encampment during the year had to be abandoned on account of lack of funds.

During the year 1903, a circular was issued by the War Department, outlining a code which it recommended be adopted by the different states and territories, with a view toward having a uniform law in all of them. There were a great many things in the law governing our military department, which were obsolete, and there were a great many things which should have been in our laws which were not. The War Department circular appeared to practically cover everything, and with the aid of other officers a code was prepared from this circular, but modified to suit the needs of a small force. This code was made up in the form of a bill entitled "An Act to promote the efficiency of the National Guard of New Mexico and for other purposes." The bill met with practically no opposition in the 36th Legislative Assembly, and became a law during the month of March, 1905. New Mexico therefore has today as good a military law as any state in the Union. There is a provision in the laws of New Mexico, which requires that the Military Institute located at Roswell be inspected once each year. I was instructed to inspect this institute and during the latter part of May I went to Roswell for this purpose. As I had never been through the institute before, and knew nothing about it, the inspection was a thorough one. The ceremony of review and inspection was first carried out, followed by inspection of quarters. I found the arms in use by the cadets of an obsolete pattern, being Springfield rifles of the model of 1884, caliber .45. As these rifles are very long, they had a tendency to make the smaller cadets look even smaller, as in some instances when resting at an order arms, the muzzles extended for several inches above the boys' head. A better and lighter arm should be provided for the cadets, the Springfield rifles are entirely too heavy, are obsolete in pattern and are not suited to their wants for the purpose of drill.

The uniforms of the cadets were found to be in very good condition, made of strong cloth, were very well fitted and perfectly clean. The mess hall, kitchen, bakery, school rooms, etc., were found to be in a very good condition. The hospital, while in good condition and ready for patients at any time, was little used; so I was informed by Colonel J. W. Willson, Superintendent of the

Institute. The outdoor life of the cadets, the healthy exercise of drills, and games when off duty, kept the cadets in good health, so that it was very rare that a cadet was placed on sick report.

It appeared to me that the quarters of the cadets were inadequate, a great many of them were quartered on the second and third floor of the academy proper, while others were quartered in barracks constructed for the purpose. I am of the opinion that it would be of great benefit to the institute, if quarters could be constructed, and the cadets now quartered in the academy proper removed from it. The cadets were in several cases asked regarding their treatment, whether or not they were satisfied, and if they wished to return another term. They all replied that they were entirely satisfied with their treatment and wished to return if it were possible. The Superintendent, Col. Jas. W. Willson, and his corps of assistants, seemed to be men of ability and well fitted for their work. The school appears to be growing more popular each year, and I was advised that it was necessary to turn away applicants for admission, on account of lack of quarters. Therefore, it appears that the institute is in very good condition, but that it is badly handicapped for lack of suitable quarters for the cadets, and it is recommended that every effort be made to rectify this defect.

During the early spring of the year 1906, our National Guard was inspected by Lieutenant-Colonel Geo. H. Paddock, 5th U. S. Cavalry, as the representative of the War Department. I was complimented by Colonel Paddock upon the condition of our National Guard, a few articles of equipment were found short, as is the case each year, but as a whole the general condition of the Guard, was found to be the best in its history.

During the month of July, in a communication to you from the War Department, this Territory was invited to send a part of its National Guard to a joint encampment with National Guard troops of other states, and of troops of the regular army near Austin, Texas. It was finally decided to send one battalion of four companies of infantry, made up from six companies, and one troop of cavalry. This provisional battalion and the one troop of cavalry left for Austin on the 3rd of August, arriving there upon the 5th of August. The battalion of infantry was brigaded with the 26th U. S. Infantry, and a regiment of the Texas National Guard, the brigade being commanded by Le. R. Brown, Colonel of the 26th U. S. Infantry. The troop of cavalry was assigned to a squadron of Texas National Guard Cavalry, but were shortly relieved from duty with this squadron, and during the balance of the stay of

the command in the camp, acted independent of other commands for the most part being used as the advance of infantry regiments when leaving for maneuvers.

The New Mexico battalion and troop were highly complimented not only by Brigadier General W. S. McCaskey, U. S. Army, commanding the camp, but by other officers of both the Army and State troops on duty in the camp.

Our command had very few men on sick report, and while there is no question but that both our officers and men suffered severely from the heat, at the same time, our command was always found ready for duty. I am inclined to think it a mistake in sending our troops to Texas, at a time of year when the heat is intense, inasmuch as another maneuver camp was held nearer to us, and in a higher altitude, to which of course our troops are more accustomed. This, however, was out of the jurisdiction of both you or myself. The selection of camp sites and of troops to be ordered there is made by the War Department, and we, of course, must send our command to the point selected, if they are to receive the benefit of the encampment. I do not believe the value of these joint encampments can be estimated. I am opposed, however, to sending troops such a great distance, as the command becomes restless and worn out by travel, so that upon reaching the camp site, instead of being in the best condition for the hard work required of them, they are more or less soft and become more easily fatigued. Extensive maneuvers were carried on during this encampment in formations for attack and defense, in instruction in advance and rear guards and while the work of the troops tested the knowledge of all officers in Field Service Regulations and the handling of men in active service severely, I still am of the opinion that the work demanded of officers was of great value. The conditions which had to be endured by both officers and men surely were no more, and I believe were a great deal less than would have to be endured during active service in time of war.

It has been the custom for the past four or five years to hold an annual competition in small arms firing, at which competition each state and territory, as well as the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the Military and Naval Academies are invited to participate by teams of 12 men and 3 alternates. This competition was this year held at Sea Girt, in the state of New Jersey. It was my desire to have our territory represented in this competition last year, but lack of funds prevented it. This year, however, by economy enough funds had been saved from last year's allotment, together with this year's allotment, to admit of such a team being sent. Accordingly

a small competition between teams from our companies was ordered to be held in Las Vegas, at which point an excellent rifle range is available. Four organizations, namely Troop A, 1st Squadron of Cavalry, Company A, Company E and Company F, all of the First Infantry, responded by sending their quota to take part in this competition, which was to determine which men were to be selected for the team to represent the territory in the National match, as well as to compete for the silver cup, offered by yourself for proficiency in marksmanship.

The cup was won by the team from Company F, First Infantry, with a total score of 755 out of a possible 1,000. The team for the National match was selected by the taking of such men to the number of 15, from those whose record in the competition for the cup, showed the highest scores.

This team left for Sea Girt, N. J., August 7th, reaching that point August 31st. The competition at that point this year being represented by teams from more states and territories than ever before. Including the teams from the regular service, there were entered for this match 41 teams, 35 states and two territories (New Mexico and Oklahoma) being represented. The final standing of the New Mexico team was thirty-sixth place, this team beating the states of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Virginia and the Territory of Oklahoma. When it is understood that at least one-half of the New Mexico team had received but little instruction prior to the meeting at Las Vegas, the winning of thirty-sixth place in the National match was very creditable to the team.

The detail work of this team will be made to you in another report, and it does not seem necessary to lengthen this report by going into details. I wish to say, however, that a great deal of interest is being taken in this target work all over the country, and the New Mexico military officials were complimented on all sides for the interest shown in the work and demonstrated by the sending of a team.

In reference to appropriations for this department from the territory, I wish to invite attention to that part of my last report which refers to the inadequacy of the amount of funds allowed for the maintenance of this department, and especially for the payment of rents for buildings used as armories for our companies.

I appreciate the fact that there are a great many institutions and departments in the territory which must be maintained by the territory, at the same time I should consider myself lax in my duty, should I refrain from making every effort to secure legislation which would be of benefit to this department.

In a communication to the finance committee of the last legislature I pointed out the inadequacy of the amount of funds allowed for the payment of armory rents, the allowance at that time being \$750.00 per year, this amount was increased by the legislature \$450.00, giving a total of \$1,200.00 per year. Now while this increase was greatly appreciated, it was not, however, increased to such an extent as would permit of paying the rents of armories of the different organizations and avoid the necessity of requesting an appropriation made especially to clear up these obligations, and disappointed me entirely in my hope to place some of the companies in better buildings.

Once each year, as stated before in this report, our National Guard organizations are inspected by a representative of the War Department, and during the past four years not one inspector has failed to point out to the War Department the fact that with two exceptions our organizations were housed in armories in name only. Last year one company was inspected in a livery stable on account of the room used as an armory being too small to permit of the company being placed in line. The two exceptions were companies receiving \$25.00 per month for their rents, but making it necessary for them to add \$10.00 to this amount to enable them to hold the buildings.

Attention is called to the fact that our National Guard is small Arizona having a larger Guard than this territory, and it is not considered advisable to reduce the strength, and it is absolutely impossible to allow \$25.00 per month to all of the organizations under the present allowance of funds.

It has been impossible to pay all rents for these buildings during the past two years, and it will be necessary to request an appropriation to pay them. This is important, the buildings have been used and the owners should be paid. A list of names with amounts due will be submitted later and I cannot urge too strongly that you recommend favorable action, both upon the allowance to settle the claims and the increasing of the amount of funds for the payment of armory rents.

The government is doing everything in its power for the National Guard. In time of war the National Guard would be the first to take the field after the regular army, and the value of providing for the every day needs of the Guard is understood by Congress.

Through the efforts of the Inter-state National Guard Association (composed of the Adjutants General of all the states and territories) the appropriation of one million dollars for the annual support of the National Guard of the various states and territories

was, during the present year increased to two million dollars. Of this amount New Mexico will secure \$10,469.08 per year, and from this amount \$7,851.81 will be available for the purchase of arms and equipments and \$2,617.27 for the promotion of rifle practice, so long as the War Department is shown by inspections conducted annually that our National Guard is fully uniformed, armed and equipped for field service. It should not be overlooked that no part of the above amounts can be used for any other purposes other than those named: In other words armory rents and other expenses in connection with the maintenance of the National Guard must be paid from territorial funds.

It is difficult to point out to you, the amount of work it necessitates to maintain our organizations without providing suitable buildings, fuel, lights and their necessities for keeping up the interest of the members. I am therefore of the opinion that my estimate of funds necessary to conduct this department properly, which was made to the last legislature, the estimate being four thousand, four hundred dollars per year, is very low.

If we cannot show at inspections that our organizations are in good condition, we will be barred from drawing upon our allotment of funds from the government, and it is extremely difficult to give creditable inspections under our present appropriation from the territory.

The increase in the appropriation of funds, and allowance of funds to settle obligations now outstanding are the most important things now needed in this department. Some legislation is desired amending some parts of the law as it now stands, which a trial has demonstrated was not for the best interests of the service. This however, I believe can be secured easily, as no one could have any objection to it. There would be no appropriation connected with it, and no one would have reason to object to any changes in this manner which would perfect the laws governing this department.

In closing this report, I respectfully invite your attention to the fact, that the work in the Adjutant General's office is steadily increasing. The amount of correspondence, reports, etc., with the War Department alone, is of such volume as to necessitate a great amount of clerical work, and the work of conducting the affairs of the National Guard, shipment of stores, and the numerous other things which demand the attention of the office, are growing so heavy, that it is a physical impossibility for one man to handle this office, the Adjutant General being required to do everything personally. Only those who have had experience in the handling of military returns, correspondence, etc., can realize the amount of

labor which their handling necessitates, and in an office of this kind where everything pertaining to military work, from the duties of quartermaster to administration is demanded, it is as before stated a hard task for one man to perform. Any legislation which would tend to rectify the conditions would be of great benefit.

Very respectfully,

A. P. TARKINGTON,  
Adjutant General.